Levy of fees for supply of Medicines.

23 *MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to levy fees for supply of medicines to out-patients from the Government Hospitals?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Yes; the matter is under consideration.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know whether the proposal to levy fees for medicine is for the General Hospital alone or for all the hospitals in the State?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The question is under the consideration of Government. I do not know if I will be correct in answering this before any decision is come to.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): That is not my point. May I know whether it is the proposal to levy fees in the General Hospital alone or for all the hospitals in the State?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*): May I know whether such a course is in vogue in any part of British India?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know in regard to the levy of fees for the supply of medicines to out-patients who originated this proposal?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The whole question is under the consideration of Government.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): That is not my question, Sir. I want to know who originated this proposal of levying fees for the supply of medicines?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Government.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the reasons which induced the Government for bringing such a proposal?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Probably to meet the expenditure which is increasing from year to year in the Medical Department and secondly to help the unemployed doctors to set up private practice.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether a Committee has been appointed to go into the whole question and see whether it is feasible or not to levy fees for the supply of medicine?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): I think this question was discussed by the Retrenchment Committee three years ago.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): May I know whether this practice exists anywhere else?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Yes.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether there was any representation from the unemployed doctors to reduce their unemployment by levying fees for medicines in the General Hospital?

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MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): There were representations from private doctors.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether the levy of fees is considered as a general question?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): I have answered that.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the Government will expempt persons who are too poor to pay for the supply of medicines?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physican*): That was also under the consideration of Government and persons who are too poor to pay will not be charged,

SADASYA TILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Urban*): Are the Government aware of the fact that the General Hospital was established as a charity hospital by one of the Maharajas of Travancore?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physican*): I accept the member's statement.

Interpellations in the Sri Mulam Assembly.

24 *MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of interpellations sent up by the honourable members of the Sri Mulam Assembly before the last Budget Session and the number answered?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASAVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The number of interpellations admitted by the President for the last Budget Session of the Sri Mulam Assembly is 544. This information has been furnished by the courtesy of the President. The number of interpellations answered is 256.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether the Government are aware that many of the interpellations repeatedly sent by the members of this House and admitted by the President are left unanswered?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) The answer gives the number of questions admitted and the number answered, from which it could be seen that some questions were not answered.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Many of the questions repeatedly sent by the members of this House and admitted by the President on previous occasions also remain unanswered. May I know whether the Government are aware of that?

RAO BAHADUR RAJASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, Sir, I do not think so.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know why it is stated that this information has been furnished by the courtesy of the President? I wish to know whether this House is not entitled to get that information.

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